

Religion at Congregate Sites

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This is my understanding of the inclusion of religious activities at congregate nutrition sites. It is based on a discussion I had last year with Joe Carlin, AoA Nutrition Program Specialist. His initial comments were provided in response to a question about inviting ministers to say grace or give the blessing at meal sites. Actually, in my experience, most sites use a senior to do this.

Regarding Bible studies, Joe Carlin stated that you can't let one minister participate and exclude others (priest, rabbi, etc.) who may be interested in leading prayers at the meal site. However, you aren't obligated to go out and recruit ministers to say grace.

Joe went on to say that it was best to have everyone participating in a Bible study session go to a separate room or to a different part of the room. That way no one is forced to participate in this activity if they don't want to - or if they are too timid to speak up.